

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (SZ),
SOUTHERN ZONE AT CHENNAI.**

Original Application No. 230 of 2020 (SZ)

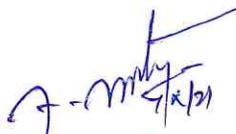
Tribunal on its own motion-SUO MOTU

Based on the News item in Dinakaran Newspaper, E-paper Edition dated 06.10.2020, "The Chembarambakkam Lake Becoming garbage yard as effluents of different private Factories are being dumped in the lake: Villagers complain"

.... Applicant

Versus

1. The Principal Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department,
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600 009.
2. The Principal Secretary to Govt of Tamil Nadu,
Health and Family Welfare Department,
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600 009.
3. The Secretary to Govt of Tamil Nadu,
Department of Environment,
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600 009
4. Additional Chief Secretary to Govt of Tamilnadu,
Municipal Administration and water supply Department,
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600 009
5. The Principal Secretary to Govt of Tamilnadu,
Industries Department,
Govt. Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600 009
6. The Chairmen ,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Anna Salai, Guindy,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600 032


Superintending Engineer W.R.D.,
Palar Basin Circle,
Chepauk, Chennai-600 022

7. The District Collector,
Kancheepuram.
8. State Industries Promotion Corporation of
Tamil Nadu Limited (SIPCOT)
Rep. by its Managing Director,
Egmore, Chennai – 600 008.
9. SIPCOT Irungattukottai Manufactures Association,
Rep. by its President,
K-51, SIPCOT Industrial Park,
Irungattukottai, Sriperumbudur Taluk,
Kancheepuram District – 602 117.
10. Irungattukottai Village Panchayat,
Rep. by its Secretary,
Irungattukottai Main Road,
Sriperumbudur, Kancheepuram – 602 107.
11. Keevalur Village Panchayat,
Rep. by its Secretary,
Keevalur Main Road,
Sriperumbudur, Kancheepuram – 602 105.
12. Katrambakkam Village Panchayat,
Rep. by its Secretary,
Poongavanathamman Koil Street, Katrambakkam,
Sriperumbudur, Kancheepuram – 602 105.

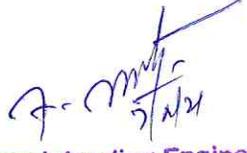
.... Respondents

INTERIM REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF THE 1st RESPONDENT

I, A.Muthaiya. son of Mr.A.L.Asokan aged about 56 years, officiating as Superintending Engineer, Public Works Department, Water Resources Department, Palar Basin Circle, Chennai -05 do, solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

Page No :-

No of Corr :-


Superintending Engineer, W.R.D.,
Palar Basin Circle,
Chepauk, Chennai-600 005.

2. I state that, I am the superintending Engineer, Water Resources Department of the Public Works Department, Palar Basin Circle, Chepauk, Chennai, file the interim report on behalf of the 1st respondent herein and I am well acquainted with the facts of the case from records.

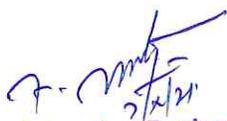
3. It is submitted that, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in its order dated 20.10.2020 has appointed a joint committee comprising of (1) The District Collector, Kancheepuram District or a Senior Officer not below the rank of District Revenue Officer (DRO) as deputed by the Collector (2) A Senior Officer from Tamil Nadu State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (TNSEIAA) (3) a Senior Officer from the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) as designated by its Chairman and (4) a Senior Officer not below the rank of Superintending Engineer from the Public Works Department (PWD) and Water Resources Organisation (WRO), Who is in charge of that area to inspect the area in question and submit a factual as well as action taken report, if there is any violation found.

4. It is submitted that the Hon'ble Tribunal in its order dated 20.09.2021 stated that,

"10. It is quite unfortunate that the matter was admitted on 20.10.2020 and the committee has been appointed to go into the question and submit a report. Except the Pollution Control Board filed some report earlier, neither the committee members nor the official respondents have filed any statements regarding the allegations made in the newspaper report and the steps taken by them which they are expected to take. The committee has also not

Page No :-

No of Corr :-


Superintending Engineer, W.R.D.,
Palar Basin Circle,
Chepauk, Chennai-600 005.

submit the report, though substantial environment issues have been raised and most of the members of the committee are expected to take steps to protect the water body against pollution and encroachment, in spite of that they have not taken pro active steps to file the report despite several opportunities given.

11. *However, we feel that one more opportunity can be given to the committee to submit the report, failing which, the members will be bound to appear before this Tribunal to answer as to why action should not be taken against them for non-compliance of the directions issued by this Tribunal as contemplated under Section 25 & 28 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010."*

It is submitted that, the Joint committee appointed by this Hon'ble Tribunal has been inspected the area in question on 29.09.2021 and submitted its report as follows:

**Joint Inspection Report on Chembarampakkam Tank
Foreshore areas on 29.09.21**

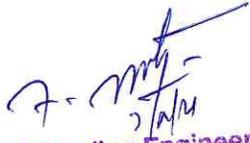
Date of Inspection: 29.09.2021

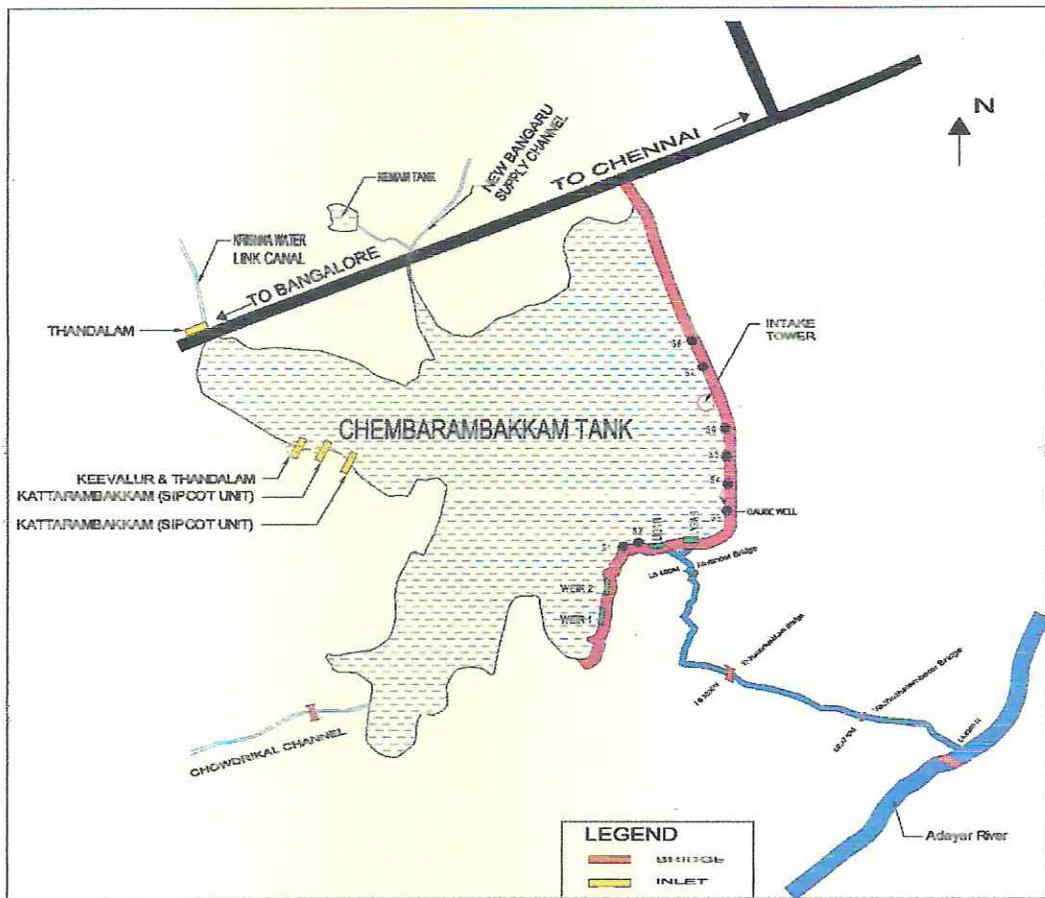
Officers Present:

1. T.Muthu Mathavan
Revenue Divisional Officer, Sriperumbudur Division, Kancheepuram.
2. M.Prabakaran
Assistant Engineer, TNPCB.
3. Er.C.Podupanithilagam, M.E.,
Executive Engineer, W.R.D.,
Kosasthalayar Basin Division,
Tiruvallur.
4. Er.R.Siva Murugan,
Superintending Engineer, CMWSSB

Page No :-

No of Corr :-


Superintending Engineer, W.R.D.,
Palar Basin Circle,
Chepauk, Chennai-600 005.



The Joint committee inspected in the following inlet points of the foreshore area to identify the infall of the polluted water.

1. The Joint committee inspected the Keevalur and Thandalam village Panchayat sullage water directly let into the Chembarambakkam tank. It is noticed that nearly 0.3 MLD of sullage water discharging into the tank without any treatment. It was informed that the notice have been issued to the local body by Section officer, WRD., & Assistant Engineer, TNPCB.

Page No :-

No of Corn :-

[Handwritten Signature]
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 Superintending Engineer, W.R.D.,
 Palar Basin Circle,
 Chepauk, Chennai-600 005.

5. Er.Karthikeyan
Assistant Engineer/Project Officer,
Sipcot.

6. A.Abdul Rasheed, Consultant Technical, Sipcot

The Chembarambakkam tank is the one of the drinking water tank of Chennai city, situated on the south side of Chennai - Bangalore High way NH-4 (12°59'59.26"N Latitude and 80° 4' 51.54" E Longitude). This Tank was constructed in the pallava period before 400 years. This tank is fed by surplus channel from Pillai Pakkam tank namely "ChoudryKal" conveying the surplus from Sriperumbudur Tank which is the terminal tank of Palar anicut system. The another source is namely the new Bangaru channel which is a diversion canal from Korattur Anicut across Cooum river. Recently, in the year 1996 the tank was connected by link canal from Poondi Reservoir to feed the Krishna Water Supply Project. The Chembarambakkam surplus course is off take from 5vents and 19 vents outlet regulators and its finally confluences at Adayar river near Thiruneermalai village with a total chainage of 6200m.

As per the Krishna water supply project the full Tank level of this tank has been raised by 2' i.e 22' to 24' and this additional storage of 525mcft has been utilized for Chennai city water supply scheme.

Chembarambakkam Tank having a foreshore area in Chembarambakkam, Thandalam, Keevalur, Kattarambakkam, Nandhambakkam , Palanjur, Melpudhur and Sirukalathur Panchayats.

Page No :-

No of Corr :-


Superintending Engineer, V.
Palar Basin Circle,
Chepauk, Chennai-600 009.



JOINT COMMITTEE INSPECTION INLET POINT NO.1

2. The Joint committee observed that solid waste being dumped in the left side of Keevalur Panchayat road in the foreshore area of Chembarambakkam tank. The solid waste contains mostly the package materials like Plastics & Thermacol, which may flow directly into the Chembarambakkam tank during monsoon season. The Committee instructed the Section Officer, Chembarambakkam to address the issue to Keevalur Panchayat & SIPCOT.



JOINT COMMITTEE INSPECTION AT DUMPING OF GARBAGE IN KEEVALUR PANCHAYATH ROAD SIDE

Page No :-

No of Corr :-


Superintending Engineer, W.R.D.,
Palar Basin Circle,
Chepauk, Chennai-600 005.

3. The Joint committee inspected the second inlet point in the 7th main road SIPCOT area of Kattrampakkam(unit II).During the inspection, it is observed that there is no discharge in the road side drain, let it into the Chembarambakkam foreshore water spread area.



JOINT COMMITTEE INSPECTION INLET POINT NO.2

4. The Joint committee inspected the third inlet point of Kattarambakkam (SIPCOT unit – II) Panchayat. It is observed that nearly 0.2MLD of sullage water discharging into the foreshore water spread area of the Chembarambakkam tank. The Project Officer, SIPCOT informed that they identified three defaulting industries (M/s. Nikitha Industries, M/s. TGI Packaging Pvt. Ltd., M/s. Poly House Rubber India Ltd.,) discharging the above effluent into the drain. The committee express its regret to the officials, take the stringent action against erring industries through TNPCB for letting out the illegal effluent into the drinking water body. The Section Officer, Chembarambakkam informed that the several notices were

Page No :-

No of Corr :-


Superintending Engineer, W.R.D.,
Palar Basin Circle,
Chepauk, Chennai-600 005.

issued previously to stop the infall of effluent, which is the main cause for growing weeds in the water spread area. Inlet No.1 and No.3 soil sample and water sample are taken and result will be submitted to Hon'ble NGT.



JOINT COMMITTEE INSPECTION INLET POINT NO.3

The SIPCOT Project Officer also stated that, he lodged police complaint against three Lorries for trespassing in to the SIPCOT area to decant of sewage water into the storm water drain.

With the above observations, the following actions need to be addressed immediately,


Superintending Engineer, W.R.O.,
Palar Basin Circle,
Chepauk, Chennai-600 005

Page No :-

No of Corr :-

SHORT TERM PLAN				
SL. No.	LOCATIONS	DESCRIPTION OF WORK	ACTION TAKEN BY CONSENT DEPARTMENT	TIME SCHEDULE
1	Keevalur and Thandalam Panchayat	Construction of soak pit (Sump size - 10m dia with 2m depth) to collect the sullage water, before falling into lake	Block Development Officer, Keevalur and Thandalam Panchayat.	2 months
2	Kattarambakkam (Sipcot unit -II) 7 th main road, 1 st cross street	CCTV Camara must be erected by Sipcot to ensure the zero discharge	Sipcot	1 months
LONG TERM ACTION PLAN				
1.	Keevalur and Thandalam Panchayat	Construction of underground sewerage system	Block Development Officer, Keevalur and Thandalam Panchayat.	2 Years

5. It is submitted that, the environmental issues are addressed in detail in the inspection report and the action plan for individual department also included.

Dated at Chennai on this the 07th day of OCTOBER, 2021.


 Superintending Engineer, W.R.D.,
 Palar Basin Circle,
 Chepauk, Chennai-600 005.

Page No :-

No of Corr :-

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Superintending Engineer,
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Page No :-

No of Corrn :-

